

This bill seeks to designate U.S. Highway 54 as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System. The corridor would be known as the Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation Corridor, or the SPIRIT Corridor. U.S. 54 runs from the border with Mexico at El Paso, Texas, through New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, to Wichita, Kansas. This legislation will help improve transportation infrastructure and stimulate economic development in the communities and states through which U.S. Highway 54 passes.

Mr. Speaker, those who live in the eastern United States know that communities are more compact and the commutes much shorter. For the intermountain west, on the other hand, it is not unheard of for people to have to commute 80 miles to work and 80 miles back home. That is just one of the reasons designating U.S. 54 as a high priority corridor is so important to improving the transportation infrastructure and promoting economic development. Safe and efficient highways are critical to all types of traffic, whether it be tourists visiting or goods being shipped from point to point. Designating U.S. 54 as a High Priority Corridor will make it eligible for additional federal grants and transportation funds, which will, in turn, help upgrade the highway and improve its safety and efficiency.

I was pleased that the SPIRIT Corridor designation was included in H.R. 3550 during the 108th Congress, and will again seek inclusion of the designation in any transportation reauthorization legislation we consider this session. I urge my colleagues in the House to support the addition of the SPIRIT Corridor to the list of high priority corridors in our National Highway System.

#### HONORING PARSONS CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

#### HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor an organization that has provided compassionate and dedicated service to children and families in New York for over 175 years. The Parsons Child and Family Center and their hardworking staff currently serve more than 7,000 children and their families, by providing residential and foster care services and by specializing in special education prevention and mental health services.

The mission of the Parsons Child and Family Center has evolved over time. Starting as a foster home for destitute children, this organization's primary goal today is the preservation of families. It has become a treatment-oriented institution offering intensive, therapeutic services to emotionally disturbed children. The Parsons Child and Family Center recognizes the vital role that a family plays in the upbringing of our children, and it does all it can to prevent the need for foster care placement. After a period of rehabilitation, the Parsons Child and Family Center endeavors to return these children to their families and communities as soon as possible.

The Parsons Center provides invaluable services to countless children and families

across New York State, children in dire need of special care and assistance. The tireless and selfless work of organizations like the Parsons Child and Family Center constitutes the foundation of our nation's communities and embodies the true spirit of the United States. America's greatness is found in ordinary citizens performing extraordinary acts of kindness.

The Parsons Child and Family Center is due recognition for their work with the American family. We should honor the devoted staff of this organization, not only for the lives they touch and the families they heal, but for the example they set for us all.

I ask my fellow members of the House of Representatives to send our gratitude to the Parsons Child and Family Center for its most praiseworthy work.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MARY COLEMAN GILMER

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mary Coleman Gilmer on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Gilmer was born January 24, 1905 in Monroe County, Alabama, and is the oldest of eleven siblings. In 1926 she married Gaddie Gilmer, and moved to Montgomery where the couple first lived. Mrs. Gilmer graduated from Alabama State Teacher's College in the 1940s.

Mary Gilmer has been a servant of the Lord all her life, Mr. Speaker, having shared her love with family, friends and associates. She is known as a generous person, having given money and shelter to those in need over the years, all without want of recognition or thanks for her deeds.

Mary Gilmer is an active Christian, and has served as Minister of Music for the Shiloh Baptist Church Choir, the Branch Grove Missionary Baptist Church Choir, the St. James Missionary Baptist Church Choir in Deatsville, and the Revelation Missionary Baptist Church Choir. She is also a former member of the Old Ship of the Eastern Star Lodge #343.

To this day, Mrs. Gilmer still walks to St. James Baptist Church and frequently appears on many community programs such as the Nat King Cole Society program and the Montgomery Tuskegee Times Black History Awards Banquet. She also loves playing the piano.

Let us all pause to honor Mrs. Mary Coleman Gilmer today, Mr. Speaker, and join in the celebration of this blessed milestone in her long and fruitful life.

#### HONORING JACK B. REESE, DEL NORTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jack B. Reese, member and Chairman of the Del Norte County

Board of Supervisors, who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Reese was first elected to serve the citizens of Del Norte County in 1993. He has been an exceptional public servant throughout his long and prestigious career.

Jack Burle Reese received an Associate of Arts Degree in Police Science from Butte College, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento and holds a lifetime Teaching Credential. He served the people of California as a Law Enforcement Officer for 30 years.

In twelve years of service as a member of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, Jack Reese championed many issues to improve the lives of his constituents and to bring prosperity to the community. He provided leadership for Del Norte County as Chairman of the Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium, as Chairman of the Solid Waste Management Authority, as a member of the Regional Air Quality Control Board and as Chairman of the Local Transportation Commission. In addition, he served on the Del Norte Senior Center Board of Directors and the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Jack was a Command Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army and was a highly regarded member of the Crescent City Police Department and the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department. He attained management and executive certificates from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards as well as specialized certification from the State Department of Education and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

As a private entrepreneur, he owned and operated Reese Hydro Farms for over twenty years. He is a member of the Crescent City Car Club and founded the Sea Cruise car event. He is a Harley-Davidson enthusiast, an accomplished photographer, an amateur astronomer and a passionate karaoke singer.

Jack Reese is a native of Bellflower, California who has shared his life with his wife of 38 years, Kathryn. They have three children, Greg, Ryan and Angela and three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Jack B. Reese for his commitment and dedication to his profession and for his service to the people of California.

#### HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT DIANE GARRISON

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the courageous men and women of the Michigan State Police. Day after day, these brave individuals work together to ensure safe streets for the citizens of Michigan. On Friday, January 28, the Michigan State Police will gather to celebrate the retirement of First Lieutenant Diane Garrison, after 25 years of dedicated service to the force.

Diane Garrison enlisted with the Michigan State Police June 11, 1979, and graduated on September 26. During her distinguished career, she has been stationed at several posts, including Bay City, Lansing, Detroit, Brighton, Coldwater, and ultimately Flint, where she served as Post Commander until her retirement on December 31, 2004.

As a State Trooper, Diane has made it her life's work to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for our citizens. Many people, myself included, have greatly benefited from her experience and leadership. This extends to the community as well, where Diane is a proud member of St. James Catholic Church in Mason, and serves as a Kindergarten Religion Education teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the accomplishments and career of Diane Garrison. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating her for her unwavering commitment to justice, and wishing her well in her retirement as well as all her future endeavors.

#### RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO JUDY HART

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to recognize Judy Hart who is retiring after a 27-year career with the National Park Service.

Judy Hart is the first superintendent of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California. The legislation creating the new national park was signed by the President October 24, 2000, and Ms. Hart began as Superintendent on January 15, 2001. Prior to becoming Superintendent Judy coordinated the study for the new park. Judy has been instrumental in moving the Rosie the Riveter National Park from concept to reality. She is the latest in a long list of remarkable women whose contributions here have shaped American history. She has devoted the last 4 years of her career to laying the foundation for a National Park that is not only a part of Richmond's unique heritage, but that also symbolizes a national effort to recognize the women whose important Home Front contributions helped win World War II and also changed the way our Nation thinks about civil rights, child care, health care and labor rights. Judy has skillfully brought together a large group of partners to make this effort a success. The challenges Judy has faced and the obstacles she has overcome are even more remarkable because, as a "partnership park," all of the land and buildings are owned by entities other than the National Park Service, and the federal funds available for start-up are limited. Working with a number of grants, volunteers and her public and private donors, Judy will turn over to her successor a sound structure on which to build.

Her accomplishments at RRNP include the following: overseeing the implementation of the General Management Plan process which she also is coordinating with the City of Richmond's general plan amendment; worked with the Port of Richmond to open Shipyard #3 to visitors; worked on the National Register nominations for all structures but one within the Park; and developed Phases one and two for oral histories of home front workers. Over 9,000 Rosies have contacted the Park to share their names and short stories. After connecting with the Park, over 2,000 Rosies have written out the whole story of their home front

adventures, up to 55 typed pages from one Rosie. Over 2,000 Rosies have donated their precious mementos, treasured for over 50 years, and now delivered to the safekeeping of the Park.

Her career in the Park Service spans 27 years. Prior to moving to California for this new position, Ms. Hart worked for 12 years in the Washington, D.C. headquarters. She was the first National Program Coordinator for the National Heritage Areas which are partnership areas privately owned and managed in cooperation with the NPS. Previous to that Ms. Hart developed the Conservation Study Institute, now operated in partnership with the University of Vermont and the new Marsh Billings National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont. Ms. Hart served in the Washington Office of Legislation for 6 years, supporting the creation of Petroglyphs National Monument, Marsh Billings National Historical Park, the Mary McLeod Bethune National Historic Site, and Manzanar National Historic Site, as well as many other park units.

Ms. Hart lived for 6 years in Seneca Falls, NY, and was the first superintendent of the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, after suggesting the idea, working on the study and working on the legislation. Prior to that Ms. Hart worked on park legislation out of the Regional office in Boston, MA.

Prior to her career with the Park Service, Ms. Hart worked for the Boston Redevelopment Authority, City of Boston, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as Director of the Bureau of Relocation. She also worked for the Federal Highway Administration on Environmental Impact Statement reviews.

She began her career in publishing at Little, Brown and Company, and as a company newsletter editor for the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, both in Boston. Her graduate degree is in English Literature from Cornell University, and her graduate degree is a Master of Arts in law from Goddard College in Vermont.

Mr. Speaker, because of Ms. Hart's many contributions to preserving and interpreting our Nation's history, it is proper for us, and it is my honor, to recognize her today.

#### HONORING LYNN VICTOR OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynn Victor of Santa Rosa, California, who retires after a remarkable 30-year career of creative and innovative work to improve the lives of low-income Americans.

Beginning at the Community Action Council of San Joaquin County in the 1970s, Lynn created innovative solutions to the needs of low-income communities. As energy costs rose, she helped to develop and then administered the nation's first home weatherization programs funded by state regulated utility companies. Based on its great success, regulated utility companies in 22 states now provide weatherization services to millions of their low-income customers around the Nation. These programs not only help disadvantaged families

reduce their energy costs, they also conserve energy for America, helping toward energy self-sufficiency and reduced dependence on foreign oil.

Lynn then went on to design the Nation's first education program to help low-income and non-English speaking communities understand the deregulation of the telephone industry, enabling them to obtain and keep vital telephone service at the lowest possible cost. She designed a program to help millions of low-income people understand the privacy and security implications of new telephone technology. In this effort, she created education materials in 32 languages and Braille so that, for the first time, major telephone companies were able to reach California's huge immigrant populations through community action agencies, domestic violence shelters and other community based organizations. Once again, this program became a model for utility companies throughout the nation to understand and address the needs of their hard-to-reach customers and bring them important consumer protection information.

Lynn's work has always featured collaborations with Community Action Agencies (CAAs) our Nation's network of over 1,000 anti-poverty agencies that serve millions of low-income Americans. CAA's operate Head Start, Energy Assistance Programs, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and other services that reach millions of disadvantaged Americans. For the past 4 years, Lynn has worked as Executive Director of the California/Nevada Community Action Partnership, helping this two state association of CAAs address the causes and symptoms of poverty in their communities.

An immigrant born in England, Lynn grew up in New Zealand, arriving in America in 1963. As a single parent of Michael, Elizabeth and Kristina Victor, Lynn had many hardships to face with no family to turn to. However, she found her new family in her community.

Mr. Speaker, as innovator, organizer and inspiration, this remarkable woman exemplifies the spirit of American immigrants who contribute so much to the vibrancy of our Nation. She is leaving her post having set a new standard for all who will follow after her, and she has put into place programs that will serve the neediest of us well in the future. Thank you, Lynn.

#### THANKING DOLLY SEELMEYER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in December 2004, we rise to thank Ms. Dolly Seelmeyer for over 32 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Dolly began her career in government in 1972 in a "temporary 6-week position" in the Office of Photography. She followed that with being hired as the first female Photographer for the House of Representatives. Her passionate customer service, organizational knowledge and resourcefulness benefited six Speakers of the House, and more than 4,000 Members of Congress over three decades. Some say Dolly, herself, is an institution within